UNITED NATIONS **A**

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/C.3/52/11
26 November 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fifty-second session
THIRD COMMITTEE
Agenda item 112 (b)

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS, INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

Letter dated 21 November 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that on 13 November 1997, the Parliament of Ukraine (Verkhovna Rada) adopted the Law of Ukraine entitled "On the Authorized Human Rights Representative of the Verkhovna Rada".

This Law is aimed at further developing the relevant provisions of the Constitution of Ukraine, and the establishment of the said post is to exercise a parliamentary control over the observance of the constitutional human rights and freedoms of citizens.

The Authorized Human Rights Representative shall act independently from the governmental bodies and officials and will not substitute for the activities of any branches of power. Such person shall be appointed and dismissed by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. A person nominated to this post should be at least 40 years old, have high moral standards, reside in Ukraine for no less than five years, and have experience in human rights protection.

The Authorized Human Rights Representative shall be appointed for a five-year term, upon the recommendation of the Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada or by no less than one fourth of the deputies. No person appointed to this position will be allowed to exercise any other representation mandate or to take any other posts in the governmental bodies.

The Law also guarantees the prohibition of interference in the activity of the Authorized Human Rights Representative of any government bodies, local self-governing bodies, associations of citizens, enterprises, institutions or organizations, irrespective of the forms of ownership.

The establishment of this post could serve as yet another vivid example of Ukraine's continuous movement on the road of democratic reforms, the incorporation of the principles of democracy into the fabric of the society, and strengthening the legal basis in ensuring human rights.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 112 (b).

(Signed) Volodymyr YEL'CHENKO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of Ukraine to the United Nations